Shifting of Headquarters of the Office of the Salt Commissioner

487. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:
SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken by Government regarding shifting of the Headquarters of the Office of Salt Commissioner from Jaipur to Gandhinagar, Gujarat;

(b) whether Government has implemented the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court in this matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by when it will likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) In compliance with the Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan's order dated 04.10.2007 all the concerned parties *i.e.* Government of Rajasthan, Government of Gujarat and All India Salt Department Employees Union were given a hearing. The oral and "written submissions made by the State Governments and the Employees Union were carefully considered and it has been decided that it is not necessary to shift the Headquarters office of the Salt Commissioner from Jaipur in Rajasthan to Gandhinagar in Gujarat. In addition to the existing establishment of Salt Department in Gujarat, it has been decided to establish a camp office of Salt Commissioner in Gujarat and the Salt Commissioner has been advised to be in Gujarat for at least five working days in a month to give special attention to the issues pertaining to Salt Industry in Gujarat.

Exodus of scientists from DRDO

488. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 1,000 top scientists have quit the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the last five years;

(b) if so, whether this has caused a great problem for the organization;

(c) if so, the main reasons for the same; and

(d) what steps Government proposes to take to check such exodus of DRDO scientists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir. However, during the last five years (July, 2003-June, 2008), 1159 scientists, mainly at junior level, have resigned from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

(b) There has been no substantial impact of such attrition on completion of DRDO projects/programmes. The deficiencies are made up through regular recruitments.

(c) Scientists, who had resigned, have indicated personal/domestic ground as the reason for leaving DRDO. However, it is assumed that increased opportunities available in private sector industries is the main reason of such exodus.

(d) Sixth Central Pay Commission has recommended a number of incentives for scientists, which have been accepted and implemented by the Government. DRDO has made efforts to arrest the attrition through career enhancement by providing study leave for acquiring higher qualifications *viz.,* Ph.D., M. Tech., etc., sponsoring scientists for attending conferences/ seminars/ symposia/ short and long term training courses in frontier areas of research within the country and abroad, mentoring of young scientists, creating better working environment and social life in living campuses, etc.

Permanent commission to women officers

489. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has approved permanent commission to women officers in three services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what would be selection criteria and composition of the commission?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Government has recently approved a proposal to grant Permanent Commission to women officers prospectively in select branches (Judge Advocate General (JAG) Department and Education Corps of the three Services, Accounts Branch in Air Force and Naval Constructor in Navy). The selection will be subject to fulfillment of the prescribed eligibility criteria.

Rejection of indigenously developed ALH by Indian Navy

490. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy has rejected the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) developed indigenously;

(b) if so, on what grounds; and

(c) the steps taken to bring it within limits of compatibility?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Indian Navy has not rejected the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) developed indigenously by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Eight ALH (Utility) helicopters have been inducted in the Navy so far. However, Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) variant has not been inducted in service.

Additional troops to J & K border

†491. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to send additional troops of army to the bordering areas of Jammu and Kashmir to curb the increasing terrorist incidents; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The quantum of troops deployed in the State of Jammu and Kashmir is continuously assessed and reviewed by the Army based on the changing threat perception.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi